

## Henry W. Thurston, Jr. 1893-1974

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Henry W. Thurston, Jr., retired Professor of Plant Pathology at The Pennsylvania State University, died at his home in Strafford, Pennsylvania, on December 19, 1974.

He was a native of Lake Forest, Illinois, and was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1915 with the BS degree. During the period of

1917-18 he was Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology and Physiology at Nebraska and from 1919-20 served as Pathologist, Office of Cereal Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

He received his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1922 where he studied under R. A. Harper who is remembered as a famous botanist but was also a charter member of The American Phytopathological Society. Thurston's thesis, which was titled "The Intermingling Gametophytic Mycelium of *Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginiana*," may have attracted the attention of F. D. Kern at Penn State University. For many years, even after both were retired, they collaborated on their mutual hobby, the taxonomy of tropical rusts. They also taught a course on rusts.

With the exception of a brief period from 1917-20, Thurston spent his entire professional career at Penn

State University where he retired as Emeritus Professor in 1954 after 34 years of teaching and research. In his latter years at Penn State he became very active in the then rapidly developing field of fungicides. Glyodin was first tested by him in the 1940's. A laboratory screening program for fungicides was conducted during and after World War II, and field testing was carried on for many years, particularly against diseases of apples, potatoes, and turf.

A number of plant pathologists still active in fruit and vegetable disease control were among his graduate students. He also supervised research on control of turf diseases during the same period. Among his younger associates he was affectionately known as Uncle Henry. He never refused requests from students or colleagues for assistance. After retirement, while living near Philadelphia, he was for 10 years a consultant to Union Carbide Corporation.

Thurston was the author of many publications ranging from technical articles on taxonomy of rust fungi to both technical and popular reports of his work with control of plant diseases. The latter earned an invitation to address meetings of fruit growers in the U. S. and Canada and a trip to Central America to observe diseases of bananas when new disease control techniques were being sought for that crop.

He is survived by his wife Edna, a daughter, a son, and two grandchildren.